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NFIB-M-236
11 October 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD PRINCIPALS

FROM: Mark J. Sullivan, Jr.
Executive Secretary, NFIB

SUBJECT: Minutes of the 236th NFIB Meeting, 25 August 1988,
1500 Hours (OUO)

Summary of Decisions (OUO)

The Chairman, Director of Central Intelligence Webster, with the concurrence of the NFIB principals, approved Cambodia: The Prospects for and Implications of a Diplomatic Breakthrough (SNIE 57-88), subject to the addition to the Key Judgments of an alternative view from the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. [REDACTED]

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The Chairman also with the concurrence of the principals approved The Prospects for Change in Sino-Soviet Relations (NIE 13/11-22-88), subject to certain changes agreed at the meeting. [REDACTED]

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Minutes of the Meeting (OUO)

1. Miscellanea (OUO)

The Chairman, Director of Central Intelligence Webster, convened the meeting and stated that he wished to announce that he has approved the selection of [REDACTED] as the Vice Chairman of his Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX). [REDACTED] is currently assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency's Office of Development and Engineering. [REDACTED]

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[redacted] technical expertise and experience in the development of imagery programs, as well as in imagery operations, will make him an excellent addition to the COMIREX Staff. [redacted]

[redacted]

The principals should know that, the Chairman continued, during the selection process LtGen Heinz, USAF, Director of the Intelligence Community Staff, worked hard to find a well-qualified candidate from the Department of Defense. Letters were sent to the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Service Intelligence organizations soliciting nominees, and the General personally talked to a number of people in the DoD to reinforce the point that this was an opportunity for the DoD to place someone in a senior ICS position. Unfortunately, a person with qualities comparable to those of [redacted] was not identified. [redacted]

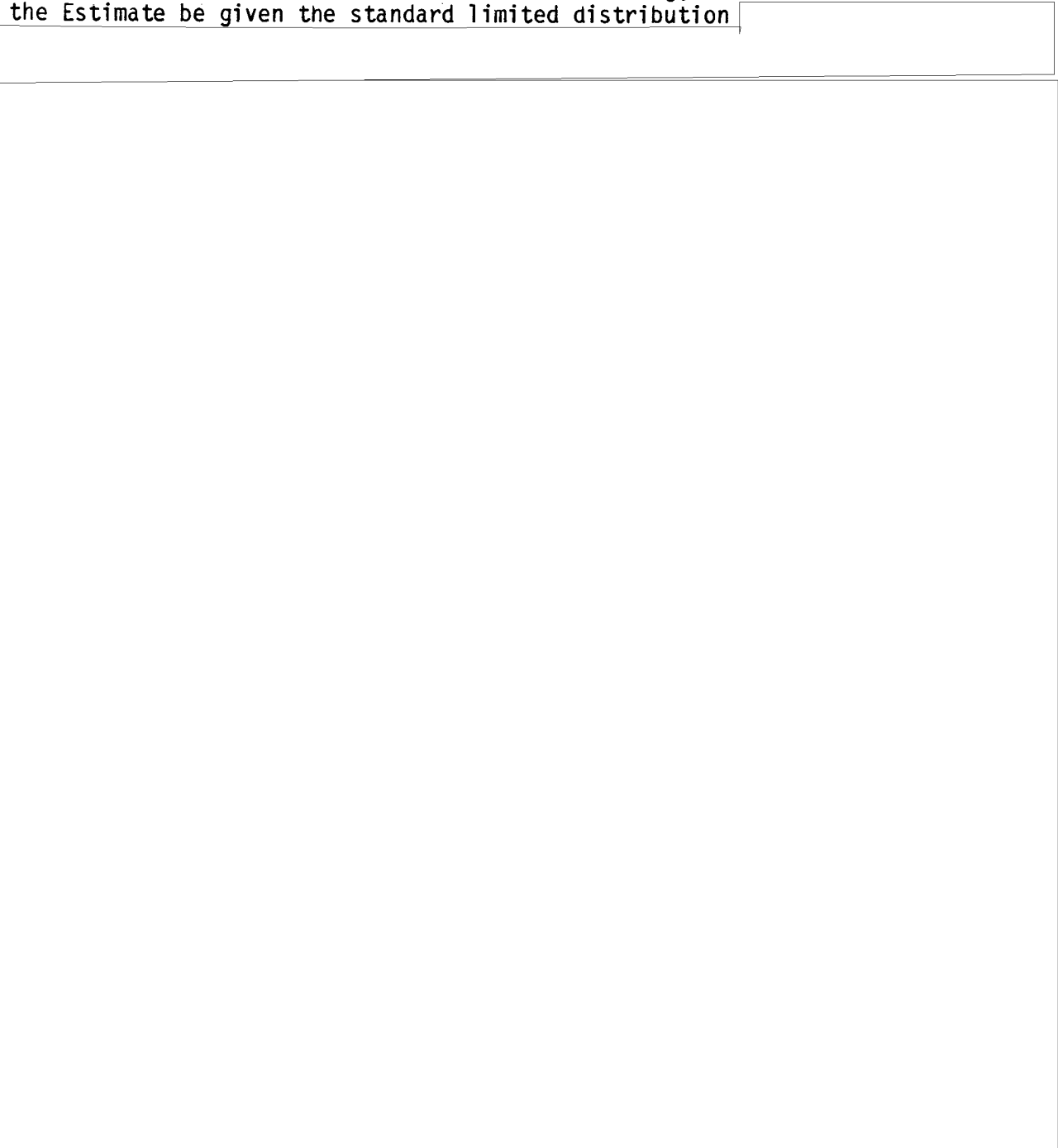
We need, the Chairman concluded, to get a better balance and broader Community representation on the ICS and in the DCI Committee structure whenever possible, particularly in senior positions. The Chairman hoped that when positions such as these are advertised, the principals will pay attention to identifying well-qualified people for these positions. The Chairman then noted that the Board has two Estimates before it today. [redacted]

2. Cambodia: The Prospects for and Implications of a Diplomatic Breakthrough (SNIE 57-88) [redacted]

The Chairman noted that the Estimate discusses the likelihood of a settlement in Cambodia. The Key Judgments point out that, while an agreement probably will not be achieved this year, one is highly likely by 1990, and that the Khmer Rouge poses the most serious obstacle to a settlement. These findings have important implications for the US: Khmer Rouge participation in a Cambodian Government would make US support and assistance difficult to justify, while its exclusion from a settlement could strain US relations with Thailand and China. And, a settlement could contribute to a reappraisal of our role in the region, to the possible detriment of US interests. [redacted]

The Chairman at this point turned the floor over to Mr. Ford, the National Intelligence Officer for East Asia, who introduced [redacted] of CIA, the Estimate's principal drafter. Mr. Ford reported that [redacted] of DIA had also made an important contribution to the draft. Except for the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Community agencies concurred

with the findings of the Estimate. As with the Vietnamese Estimate considered by the Board at its meeting-before-last, coordination was long and contentious, but a useful draft had emerged. INR intends to note its problems in a series of footnotes. Changes have been made to the draft since it was sent to the principals--i.e., corrections of clerical errors in one of the tables on the number of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. INR holds that more work needs to be done on these numbers. Concluding, Mr. Ford recommended that the Estimate be given the standard limited distribution



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[REDACTED]

The Vice Chairman and the Ambassador observed that no one intends the Estimate to tell policymakers what they should do. The Ambassador noted that it will take him a day or so to draft the desired statement. He concluded the discussion by observing that our situation vis-a-vis Cambodia is much more serious now: it is coming to a head. The Chairman thereupon approved the Estimate. [REDACTED]

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3. The Prospects for Change in Sino-Soviet Relations (NIE 13/11-22-88) [REDACTED]

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The Chairman observed that the subject of the Estimate has been looked at over many years, and the conclusions this time are very interesting. It examines the prospects for Sino-Soviet relations over the next two-to-three years, together with their implications for the US. The key judgment is that there is a high probability of significant improvement in Sino-Soviet relations over the next six months or so that will ultimately lead to a Sino-Soviet summit. [REDACTED]

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The Estimate, the Chairman continued, says that a summit, at which the normalization of Sino-Soviet relations would be formally acknowledged, could occur well before the end of the time-frame of the Estimate. The anticipated improvements in Sino-Soviet relations over the next two to three years are going to make the day-to-day conduct of US diplomacy more difficult in East Asia. But, despite the development of detente between the two rivals, the Sino-Soviet relationship will remain more adversarial than cooperative and will not lead to a genuine rapprochement or to China's adopting an equidistant position between the US and USSR. [REDACTED]

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The Chairman then turned the floor over to Mr. Blackwell, the NIO for the USSR. Mr. Blackwell noted that Mr. Ford was also importantly involved in the drafting of the Estimate and, with him, agrees with its conclusions. He then introduced [REDACTED] one of his assistants, who had supplied the first draft that the Community had worked on. The Community's view is more bullish than it was six months ago, when a majority judged that a Sino-Soviet summit would not occur within the time-frame covered by the Estimate. That view was reassessed before and during coordination of the Estimate, and no one in the Community now agrees with that view, which was dropped altogether. The prospect is for real change, based on the Chinese' taking Gorbachev more

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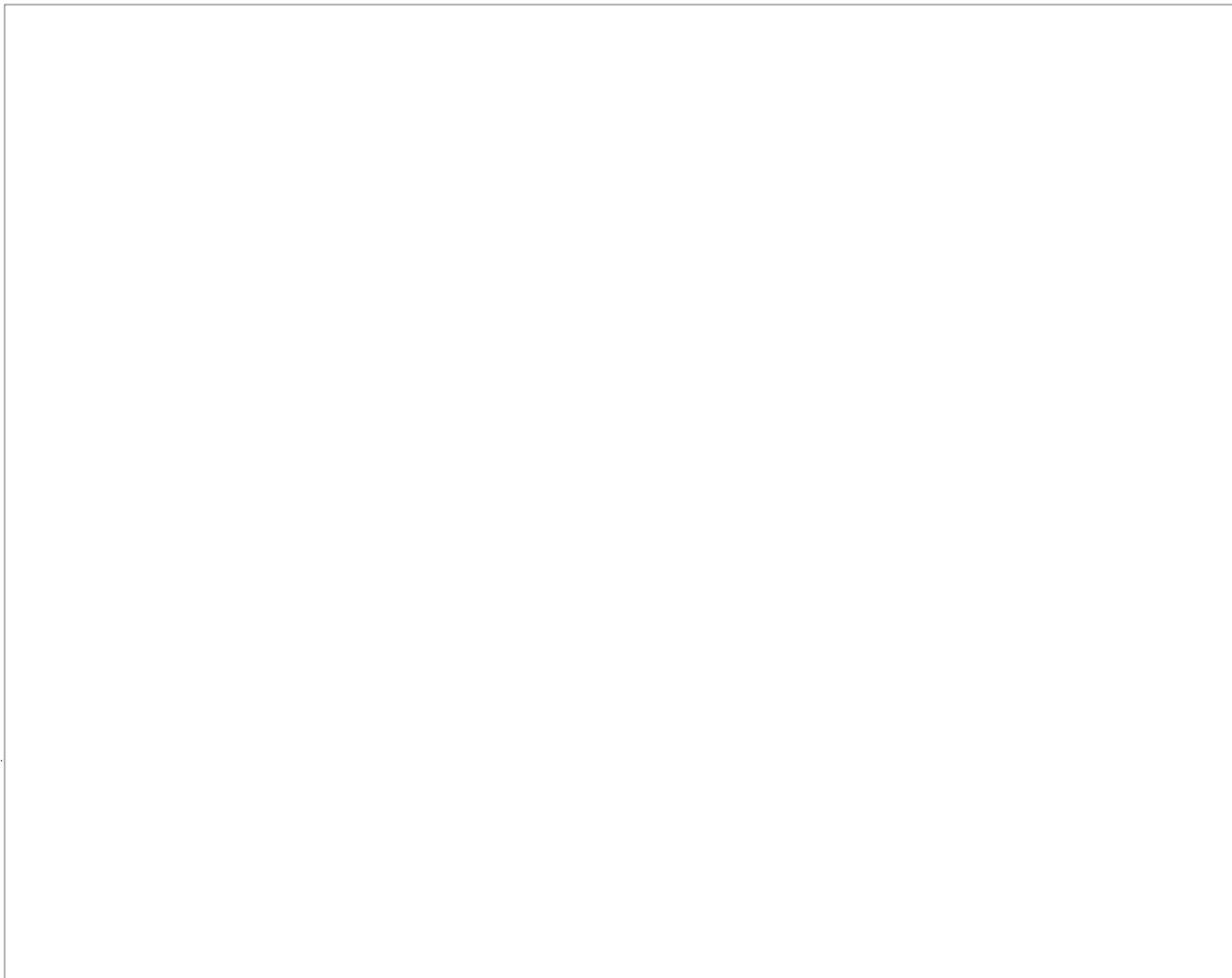
seriously, on the Soviets' withdrawal from Afghanistan, and on developments in Cambodia. It is also based on the warming of US-Soviet relations, which raised Chinese fears that they might be the odd man out. The message of the Estimate to policymakers is that they should not be surprised by major developments, but should not conclude that the Chinese will assume an equidistant position between us and the Soviets. There were some last minute changes to the Estimate, but they have been accommodated, and there are no dissents. [REDACTED]

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The Vice Chairman described the the Estimate as good, especially in its dealing with factual questions. He recalls, however, that Deng Xiaoping was at one point considered the focus of opposition to improving relations with the Soviets. What is not in the Estimate is why he changed his mind. The Estimate would be improved by adding several sentences explaining what brought about the change. [REDACTED]

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The discussion having concluded, the Chairman approved the Estimate, subject to the changes discussed. And, there being no further business before the Board, he adjourned the meeting. (OUO)

4. Secretariat Notes (OUO)

Since its last meeting, the Board on 15 August 1988 approved by telephone the minutes of its 233rd meeting. (OUO)

Mark J. Sullivan, Jr.

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Those Participating

Judge William H. Webster, Chairman
 Mr. Robert M. Gates, Vice Chairman
 Mr. Richard J. Kerr, Deputy Director for Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency
 Ambassador Morton I. Abramowitz, Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research, Department of State
 [redacted] Acting for Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
 [redacted] Acting for Director, National Security Agency
 Mr. Jimmie D. Hill, Acting for Secretary of the Air Force
 Mr. Randall M. Fort, Special Assistant to the Secretary (National Security), Department of Treasury
 Mr. Robert J. Walsh, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intelligence, Department of Energy
 Mr. Oliver B. Revell, Executive Assistant Director for Investigations, Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Captain James Eglin, USN, Acting for Director of Naval Intelligence
 Colonel Paul Gillespie, USA, Acting for Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence
 Colonel Evan Parrott, USAF, Acting for Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
 Colonel Frank Burke, USMC, Acting for Director of Intelligence

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Those Attending

[redacted] Special Assistant to the Director of Central Intelligence
 Mr. Robert Blackwell, National Intelligence Officer for the USSR
 Mr. Fritz W. Ermarth, Chairman of the National Intelligence Council
 Mr. Carl Ford, National Intelligence Officer for East Asia
 [redacted] Deputy Director for Requirements and Evaluation, Intelligence Community Staff
 Mr. David Gries, Vice Chairman of the National Intelligence Council
 [redacted] Central Intelligence Agency
 [redacted] Assistant National Intelligence Officer for East Asia
 [redacted] Assistant National Intelligence Officer for the USSR

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SUBJECT: Minutes of the 236th NFIB Meeting, 25 August 1988, 1500 Hours (OUO)

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